



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

April 3, 1981

TO: The Secretary
FROM: H - Richard Fairbanks *RF*
SUBJECT: Congressional Notification on Poland

ISSUE FOR DECISION

With regard to notification of congressional leaders concerning the latest developments in Poland, we need to answer the following basic questions: Who should be notified? Who should do the notification and briefing? Where should these meetings take place?

ESSENTIAL FACTORS:

The congressional leadership that should be advised of these developments can be construed narrowly or broadly. The narrowest definition would be only the five members of the senior bipartisan congressional leadership. However, given the breadth of factors involved, you may want to include additional members such as the Chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Committees on Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, Armed Services and Appropriations. The narrower group is five individuals, and the broader group would be approximately 25 (see attachment). However, any briefings scheduled late on a Friday will be likely to involve half of the above numbers. A number of either the top leaders or the broader leadership group will be out of town (we had already been informed that Howard Baker is in Tennessee).

The most expeditious way of notifying the members, if you feel appropriate, would be from this building (although calls from the White House would also be an option). Because of the sensitivity in both policy and

State Dept. review completed

-2-

intelligence terms as well as the complexity of the situation, in my judgment, the notification should not be made over the telephone, but rather in live briefings.

The briefings could be held either on the Hill, here in the Department, or in the White House. I think they would most appropriately be conducted by you, backed up by whatever staff you deem appropriate (e.g., intelligence, political, economic, etc.)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That at your direction we notify by telephone the broad congressional leadership and invite them to a briefing by you this evening in the State Department.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

2. Alternatively, that we invite only the five members of the bipartisan congressional leadership (recognizing that at least some of them will be out of town and unavailable).

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

3. That we hold the briefing in the White House or on the Hill rather than in the State Department.

White House _____

Capitol Hill _____

4. That the briefing be conducted by someone other than you (e.g., the Vice President, Richard Allen, Walt Stoessel).

Other Person _____

Drafted:H:RFairbanks:bdf
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1. Bipartisan Leadership: Senators Baker, Byrd
Speaker O'Neill and Congressmen Wright and Michel.

2. Foreign Affairs Committees Leadership:
Senators Percy and Pell, Congressmen Zablocki and
Broomfield.

3. Appropriations Committees Leadership: Senators
Hatfield, Proxmire, Kasten and Inouye, Congressmen Whitten,
Conte, Long and Kemp.

4. Armed Services Committees Leadership: Senators
Tower and Stennis, Congressmen Price and Dickinson.

5. Intelligence Committees Leadership: Senators
Goldwater and Moynihan, Congressmen Boland and Robinson.

7

TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRESS

-- THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE INTRODUCING
ADDITIONAL FORCES INTO POLAND.

-- THIS INTERVENTION IS TAKING PLACE WITHOUT THE
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF KEY POLISH LEADERS.

-- WE ARE CONSULTING WITH ALLIES AND MAY BE ASKING
FOR A SHORT-NOTICE MEETING OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

-- BECAUSE OF THE DETERIORATION IN POLAND, AL HAIG
HAS POSTPONED HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST.